

The Day the Jailer met Jesus (Acts 16:22-34)

Proposition: It just goes to prove that everyone needs to be saved. From the Judge to the Jailer, for the police officer to the prison inmate all of us must be born of God. I want us to draw out three important gospel truths from our text.

I. A Serious Request (Vs. 25-30)

- A. Serious about what he had Witnessed (Vs. 25-26)
- B. Serious about what he Wanted (Vs. 30)

II. A Straight Reply (Vs. 31-32)

- A. A Simple Plan (Vs. 31a)
- B. A Sufficient Person (Vs. 31b)
- C. A Solid Promise (Vs. 31c)

III. A Saving Response (Vs. 32-34)

- A. An Active Response (Vs. 33a-b)
- B. An Attested Response (Vs. 33c-d)
- B. A Affecting Response (Vs. 34)

The Day the Jailor Met Jesus
(Acts 16:23-34) I've seen a lot of people, 100's of people, come to know the Lord Jesus in the county jails in our area. I've seen them

be saved in the chapel services, in their cells, in the recreational areas. I've even led an inmate to the Lord who was mopping the floor in the hall. I've seen a lot of inmates be born again but I've never seen a jailer, or marshal of the gospel place his faith + trust in Jesus Christ. But I always hold that

as a possibility. I always pray that as I lift my voice to preach the word of God, that the Guard out side, would listen and respond to the same gospel call the inmates respond to. The reason for this is that it's Bible. That's exactly what happened in the text before us today. It just goes to prove that everybody needs to be saved from the Judge to the jailer, from the Police officer to the prison inmate alike.

I. A Serious Request - The request that this Jailor made in vs 30 is the question of all questions. There is not a more important question that can be

concerned about the future. What brought him to this

A. Serious about what he had witnessed

No doubt this Jailor took his job seriously. His was a life and death job, not for the inmates but for him. If a prisoner escaped it would cost him his life. He took no chances. But what he witnessed in these two inmates, he had never seen before. They didn't come into the Jail, pleading for their lawyer, instead they came in prayer to their Lord. The prison cell and stocks didn't cause them to swear but to sing. They didn't protest to the guards but praised their God. This Jailor

B. Serious about what he wanted.

What must I do to be saved?

This was suddenly the serious language of his heart! No doubt Paul + Silas raised their voices so their gospel message could be echoed down the dreary corridors of the Jail. Early the Jailor heard that the good news they enjoyed could be had by all. After he had been preaching to a group of inmates and noticed a guard on the other side of the security glass, handing on every word. All men need forgiveness of sin. All men

II. A Straight Reply - In response

to this Jailor's serious + urgent request, Paul + Silas, gave him a very brief + straight answer. He didn't him how ahead w/

1) ...all of us must be born of God. I want us to draw out three important gospel truths from our text.

2) ...to this request.

3) ...This jailer had witnessed what being a child of God is to be: A brand new creature! Can the world around us see the same thing, or are we so much like the world that the jailers around us barely raise an eyebrow.

4) ...All men face the judgment of God without the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1) ...Sunday School children. After he read several different verses, he said, " Children I intend to give you a summary of the truth taught in this portion of scripture. The pastor touched him on the shoulder and said, " you may want to explain what summary means." He turned to the children and said you pastor wants me to explain what summary means. Children, summary is an abbreviated synopsis of a thing." Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

2) Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. He is all you need sinner friend! Christ is sufficient to save!

3) ...them, then they will be saved. A Pastor visited a poor widow woman and was thumbing through he bible. He noticed many places where there was a T written near a verse and other places there was a T crossed out an a P written next to it. When asked about the markings the the Godly grandmother said. T is written next to the promises I've tried. P is marked next to the ones I've not only tried but proved. Well next to this promise put a big fat P for me... March 22 1994!!!

a myriad of counter questions. No, one simple Reply!

A. A Simple Plan - "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ". I wonder what the Sciler was expecting to hear: some great Pledge, some ancient ritual, some elaborate procedure. What he got was simple. It may be serious and supernatural but it is simple. Some people just can't be simple! A thesical professor was asked to speak to some Sunday School.

B. A Sufficient Person - Not only a plan was referred to but a Person was emphasized. Belief is only as good as the object on which we believe. "Lord Jesus Christ." This name reminds us that we are not believing in a great teacher, healer or leader, but God of very God. Victor over the cross and the Grave! Acts 4:12 Neither.

C. A Solid Promise - Paul is not delivering up a theorem, a postulate or suggestion, a thesis, but a rock solid promise. "Thou shalt be saved as thy house." If a person will genuinely renounce their former life of sin, submit to the Lordship of Christ and believe that the cross work of Jesus was for them they

III. A Saving Result - The proof is in the pudding! The secret is in the Sauce! As the old song goes: There is Power Power wonder

Working Power in the blood of the Lamb. We
A. An Active Result - Vs 33a-b He
(the Tailor) took and washed their stripes
What a wonderful change in my life...
There was activity. He went back
to attempt to heal the very stripes
that he probably inflicted! That is a
night and day change. The salvation
that was placed into Him was being worked out of

B. An Attested Result - Vs 33c-d - Let's
not minimize this statement. He and his
newly believing family were baptized. I
like what my pastor always said, "Baptism
is an outward expression of an inward change"
This was a public testimony of their
belief and obedience to Christ Jesus! We too
are commanded to follow in believers Baptism but

C. An Affecting Result - This was not
a case of going to the altar through
the baptismal pool and out the back door.
but it was a life changing experience that
affected their every day life. They
took their religion home w/ them.
They just didn't leave it down at the
chapel service at the Jail. They rejoiced

IV. Close - The funny thing is that before
this Tailor met Jesus, he was more of
a captive than these inmates. If you are
here and have never placed your trust in Jesus
I know some men + women in Catechesis Free

1) ...we see the result of this Jailer meeting Jesus in the verses that follow.

2) ...worked out of him in good works. Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

3) ...but we are to publicly attest to our salvation every day of our lives.

4) ...they rejoiced in it, they served in it, they believed in it!